Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting images and text in a master copy, the method comprising:

choosing a first background color from the master copy, wherein the master copy includes at least one first individual area, and wherein each first individual area includes at least one of an image portion, and a text portion, and an empty portion containing neither an image nor text;

condensing the master copy based at least in part on the first background color by omitting the empty portion to create a condensed copy of the master copy, the condensed copy containing only the image portion and the text portion;

cutting transversely and vertically dividing the entirety of the condensed master copy into additional a plurality of first individual areas;

cutting vertically the entirety of the master copy into additional first individual areas;

for each of the first individual areas—

choosing a second background color from the individual first area;

determining whether the first individual area includes an the image portion or a the text portion based at least in part on the second background color;

if the first individual area includes an the image portion, marking the first individual area as an image area;

if the first individual area includes a the text portion, marking the first individual area as a text area; and

if the first ~~individual~~ area ~~does not include either an image portion or a text~~ ~~portion~~cannot be identified as an image area or a text area, then—

replacing the first background color with the second background color;

condensing the first ~~individual~~ area based at least in part on the second background color;

~~cutting~~ transversely and vertically dividing the first ~~individual~~ area into a plurality of second ~~individual~~ areas;

~~cutting vertically the first individual area into second individual~~ ~~areas; and~~

for each of the second ~~individual~~ areas—

determining whether the second ~~individual~~ area includes ~~an~~ the image portion or ~~a~~ the text portion based at least in part on the second background color;

if the second ~~individual~~ area includes an image portion, marking the second ~~individual~~ area as an image area; and

if the second ~~individual~~ area includes a text portion, marking the second ~~individual~~ area as a text area;

processing the image areas with halftone processing;

processing the text areas with line art processing; and

outputting the processed images and processed text as a whole.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the halftone processing comprises a dithering process.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the dithering process comprises a sampling mode dithering.

8-24.   (Canceled)

25.   (New) A method for identifying image areas and text areas in a document, the method comprising:

choosing a document background color based on the whole document;

creating a condensed document from the document by omitting areas that contain neither image nor text based at least in part on the chosen document background color;

dividing the condensed document into a plurality of areas;

for each of the divided areas,

choosing an area background color based on the individual areas; and

identifying the individual areas as containing image or text based at least in part on the chosen area background color.

26.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein dividing the condensed document includes dividing the condensed document transeversely and vertically into a plurality of areas, and the method further includes:

if one of the areas cannot be identified as containing image or text,

omitting sub-areas in the area that contain neither image nor text based at least in part on the chosen area background color to create a condensed area;

dividing the condensed area into a plurality of sub-areas; and

for each of the divided sub-areas, choosing a sub-area background color based on the individual sub-areas, and identifying the individual sub-areas as containing image or text based at least in part on the chosen sub-area background color.

27.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein identifying the individual areas as containing image or text includes identifying the individual areas as containing image or text based on bit depth distribution, the identified image areas containing an image, the

area background color, and the document background color, the identified text areas containing text, the area background color, and the document background color.

28.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein choosing an area background color includes choosing an area background color that is different than the document background color.

29.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein choosing an area background color includes choosing an area background color that is the same as the document background color.

30.   (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

processing image areas with halftone processing; and

processing text areas with line art processing.

31.   (New) A method for identifying an image area and a text area in an original document, the method comprising:

choosing a document background color based on the original document;

creating a condensed document from the original document by omitting areas that contain neither image nor text based at least in part on the chosen document background color;

dividing the condensed document into a first area and a second area;

detecting a first area background color of the first area;

identifying the first area as the image area based at least in part on the detected first area background color, the first area containing at least an image and the first area background color;

detecting a second area background color of the second area; and

identifying the second area as the text area based at least in part on the chosen second area background color, the second area containing at least text and the second area background color.

32.   (New) The method of claim 31, wherein dividing the condensed document includes dividing the condensed document transeversly or vertically into the first area and the second area.

33.   (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

processing image area with halftone processing; and

processing text area with line art processing.